

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The Applicants originally submitted Claims 1-20 in the application. In the present response, the Applicants have amended Claims 1, 8 and 14. The Applicants have not canceled or added any claims. Accordingly, Claims 1-20 are currently pending in the application.

I. Rejection of Claims 1-6 and 8-12 under 35 U.S.C. §102

The Examiner has rejected Claims 1-6 and 8-12 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,233,691 to Atkinson. The Applicants respectfully disagree since Atkinson does not teach monitoring an operating characteristic associated with at least one node located within a reconfigurable circuit and selecting one of an alternative power mode when the operating characteristic falls outside of a predetermined operating range of the reconfigurable circuit, wherein the alternative power mode is obtained by adapting the reconfigurable circuit. (Claims 1 and 8).

Atkinson is directed to battery powered computer systems, and more specifically, to circuits and methods for reducing the power consumption of the computer system. (Column 1, lines 6-9). Atkinson discloses a computer system including a CPU chip that receives a clocking signal from an oscillator. (Column 3, lines 43-57). Activity monitor logic coupled to the CPU chip monitors events (*i.e.*, cache hit rate) associated with operation of the computer system and the CPU chip changes the frequency of the clock signal based on the events. (Column 4, lines 51-67). A change to a lower clock frequency conserves computer system power. (Column 3, lines 7-10).

The frequency of the clock, however, is not changed by adapting the CPU chip. Instead, Atkinson teaches the frequency of the clock is defined by bits in a register (Column 4, lines 19-50). Based on events, the bits in the register can change causing the clock frequency to toggle between

pre-defined speeds. (Column 7, lines 2-10). Thus, Atkinson teaches changing bits in a register to change a clock signal from an oscillator to achieve a change in power consumption but does not teach an alternative power mode that is obtained by adapting a reconfigurable circuit as recited in independent Claims 1 and 8.

Therefore, Atkinson does not disclose each and every element of the claimed invention and as such, is not an anticipating reference of independent Claims 1 and 8 and Claims dependent thereon. Accordingly, the Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to withdraw the §102 rejection with respect to Claims 1-6 and 8-12 and allow issuance thereof.

II. Rejection of Claims 7 and 13-20 under 35 U.S.C. §103

The Examiner has rejected Claims 7 and 13-20 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Atkinson. As discussed above, Atkinson does not teach an alternative power mode that is obtained by adapting a reconfigurable circuit as recited in independent Claims 1 and 8. Instead, Atkinson teaches changing power consumption by changing pre-defined frequencies of a clock signal from an oscillator by changing bits in a register. (Column 4, lines 19-50 and Column 7, lines 2-10). Thus, Atkinson neither teaches nor suggests each and every element of Claims 1 and 8 and Claims 7 and 13 which depend thereon.

Additionally, Atkinson does not teach or suggest each and every element of independent Claim 14 which also includes an alternative power mode that is obtained by adapting a reconfigurable circuit and Claims 15-20 which depend on Claim 14. Atkinson, therefore, fails to teach or suggest the invention recited in independent Claims 1, 8 and 14 and Claims dependent thereon. Accordingly, Claims 7 and 13-20 are not obvious in view of Atkinson and the Applicants

respectfully request the Examiner withdraw the §103 rejection of Claims 7 and 13-20 and allow issuance thereof.

III. Comment on References Cited

The Applicants reserve further review of the references cited but not relied upon if relied upon in the future.

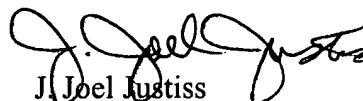
IV. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing amendment and remarks, the Applicants now see all of the Claims currently pending in this application to be in condition for allowance and therefore earnestly solicit a Notice of Allowance for Claims 1-20.

The Applicants request the Examiner to telephone the undersigned attorney of record at (972) 480-8800 if such would further or expedite the prosecution of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

HITT GAINES, P.C.


J. Joel Justiss
Registration No. 48,981

Dated: 7/2/04

P.O. Box 832570
Richardson, Texas 75083
(972) 480-8800